

Shrewsbury Schools cancellation policy

Parents are the best judges whether to send their child to school during inclement weather. When school is canceled because of weather conditions, notification will be given, usually no later than 6:00 a.m., to these television stations channels-4, 5, 7 and radio stations-WXLO FM 104.5, WTAG AM 580, WSRF FM 96, WBZ AM 1030. Please do not call the School Department, Police or

Do not call the School Department, Police or Fire Departments or radio stations for school cancellations. The telephone lines are needed during storm days for emergency situations.

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Delays

If there is an early morning safety factor, the School Department may announce a **one hour delay** of the opening of school. The announcement will be made on television and radio stations listed above, usually no later than 6:00 a.m. If this plan is in effect, starting times would be as follows:

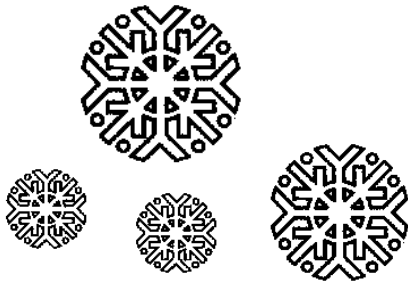
8:25 a.m.— **High School**
8:45 a.m.— **Middle School**
9:15 a.m.—**St. Mary's, Montessori**
9:30 a.m.—**Coolidge, North Shore/Parker Road**
10:00 a.m.—**Beal/ECC, Floral Street, Paton, Spring Street, Beal West**

Cancellation of afternoon sessions for kindergarten/pre-school

The School Department may decide it necessary to cancel the afternoon sessions on days when bad weather conditions develop during the morning. Please listen to the radio stations listed above for notification of cancellation. The announcement will be made no later than 11:30 a.m.

Information about school delays or closings may also be found on the district's website <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/central/snow/delay.htm>

Please help students by clearing the side walks in front of your home.



System welcomes new curriculum specialists

Carol Bradley and Gary Chalmers share similar professional and educational backgrounds, having both spent the last several years teaching in elementary and middle school settings. This year, Bradley and Chalmers have both begun their first year as curriculum specialists at their respective schools in Shrewsbury. Bradley works at Floral Street School and Chalmers works at Paton School.

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HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR



Curriculum specialists are integral parts of the schools within the district. They are responsible not only to the school in which they work, but also for the entire district as well. Bradley and Chalmers agree that the responsibilities of a curriculum specialist are numerous and varied. "We actually do a little bit of everything," says Chalmers.

Through their work with the administration, specialists develop, plan, and implement curriculum throughout the district. They plan professional development days and workshops for teachers and facilitate grade level meetings and most staff meetings. Curriculum specialists also work with their principals in order to move district and school-wide initiatives forward. "We're working really hard to make sure our curriculum lines up with the Massachusetts framework," says Chalmers, adding that curriculum specialists help to make sure that kids from all four elementary buildings in Shrewsbury are on equal playing fields.

This year, the Massachusetts framework changed in social studies, seeing nearly a complete revision in fourth grade and many changes for the third and fifth grade programs. "We had to do a lot of adding to our materials and revamping the curriculum that was already in place for those grade levels," says Chalmers.

Curriculum specialists also spend time "meeting with teachers one-on-one to assist them with planning, modeling good teaching in their classrooms, collaborating on special projects, and sometimes, just being available for a teacher in need of a helping hand," explains Bradley.

"The curriculum specialist is another resource for the classroom teachers," says Chalmers. "Teaching is such a demanding job that for new teachers coming into the field, they could all use the additional support." Curriculum specialists act as this support.

Curriculum specialists make them-

selves available. They see what they can do in the classroom, and then work to implement these changes. Chalmers additionally serves as the math coordinator for all elementary schools in the Shrewsbury school district. Bradley helps out with the science field. Each curriculum specialist has a responsibility in different academic areas. Every other Tuesday, they gather as a team to work together and deal with the curriculum issues at the district level.

At most schools, curriculum specialists also serve as the 504 coordinator. A 504 plan provides for accommodations and support for a student who has a major physical or mental impairment, but does not qualify for Special Education Services or an Individualized Education Plan. As a 504 coordinator at Paton, Chalmers coordinates the program for the seven students currently under the plan, oversees the plans, and meets with parents and classroom teachers when plans have to be written and reviewed.

Curriculum specialists are fundamental to a school community. "Shrewsbury is a large and growing district. Curriculum specialists provide communication links between schools in the district and the administration," explains Bradley. "We recognize what is needed to make all of our schools the best learning environments for the children."

Chalmers has spent the past fifteen years teaching second, fourth, and fifth grade in Shrewsbury. For the past two or three years, he has participated in the Innovative Program for the Preparation of Administrators (IPPA). This is a program that allows educators to take an alternative route to an administrative certificate. Chalmers recently completed this program, and his principal certification from the state in the elementary setting is now pending. He sees his role as a curriculum specialist as a stepping stone into the future.

"I look at this as a step between classroom teacher and getting a principalship," says Chalmers, explaining that serving as a curriculum specialist allows him to gain more experience in all areas of the curriculum for all grade levels.

Bradley, on the other hand, has taught at the elementary level for ten years and the middle school level for one year. This is her fifth year at Floral Street. "I felt ready this past year to try something different," says Bradley of her decision to switch roles within the school. "I've always been interested in trying new ideas and roles, and the job of curriculum specialist is an opportunity to do that. As a teacher, I connect to the many expectations and responsibilities that face my col-



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Carol Bradley, curriculum specialist at Floral Street School.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Gary Chalmers, curriculum specialist at Paton School.

leagues each day."

Bradley truly values the opportunities she now has with her current position. "When I was teaching, I used to walk past the rooms, look in, and think, 'I'd love to see what's happening in that class.' As a curriculum specialist, I not only get to visit these classes, but help teachers create lessons and spend time with children of all ages," she explains.

Chalmers has an eleven year old daughter who keeps him and his family busy. In his spare time, he likes to listen to music and indulge in the art of bookmaking. Bradley likes to pass her time reading, spending time with her family and their new puppy, and skiing in the winter.

Status Update: Capacity

Grade Levels	5 Year Status	7 Year Status
Parker Road Preschool	OK	OK
K-4 (6 schools) *Assumes continued lease of Beal West	OK	OK
5-6 (Sherwood)	Need addition and renovation	Need addition and renovation
7-8 (Oak)	OK	OK
9-12 (High School)	OK	Significantly over-capacity